

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008***

**Present:** Selectmen Michael Woodworth, Rosanne Gilbert, and Wes Moore; Police Chief Reed, Lt. Gould; Jed Rumford; Kevin Ray; Win Fream; Natalie Fream; Kelley Corson; Marcia Kovalik; Jamie Thompson, John Crisp; Michael Kahlke; Sue McKinnon; and Nancy Spencer.

Meeting called to order at 6:29pm by Chairman Wes Moore.

Wes mentioned that there were a couple of minor car accidents last weekend and asked Chief Reed the protocol for calling in a request for medical attention. Chief Reed and his officers use the common sense rule – they ask the parties involved if anyone is injured, and call for medical assistance if necessary. If a party is visibly injured, a call for medical help is made. They also give updates about the situation to dispatch. The Selectmen will meet with Chief Reed and Fire Chief Jeff Buxton to discuss times to call for medical attention as a result of an accident.

Chief Reed advised that Main Street will be closed December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 between 4:00pm and 7:00pm for the Holiday Celebration.

The audit for the telephone systems for various departments was given to the Selectmen. They will review the audit and discuss it later.

The Chief also gave an updated 2009 budget request to the Selectmen. Wes feels that this should be available to the public as the information contained is very informative.

Jed Rumford presented the closing budget for the Cemetery Trustees for 2008. He said the town may ask the Trustees of the Trust Funds for a check in the amount of \$9,137.00 for reimbursement of perpetual care. Jed also notified the Selectmen of damage at the Bald Hill Cemetery from a car accident. The car owner's insurance company should pay for the damage.

Nancy was asked to obtain copies of the reports to the Department of Revenue from the Trustees of the Trust Funds for the years 2007 and 2008.

Kelley Corson, Natalie and Win Fream, and Marcia Kovalik updated the Selectmen on their plans for the old Post Office building should the town decide to lease it to the Community Arts Center. They provided copies of a proposed lease agreement, and diagrams of the layout of the building interior. They will return next week for further discussion.

The Selectmen and the Budget Advisory Committee reviewed the spreadsheet for the 2009 budget. Wes expressed his view that these are extraordinary times with investments down, 401ks down, prices increasing, and over 400 taxpayers in Newfields paying more than an additional \$1,000. in taxes this year. Newfields may lose some businesses because of the economy and revenue is steeply down. Level funding may not be good enough and deeper cuts in spending may be needed. He feels the voters need to be given a choice about how much money the town needs to raise .He would like the town portion of the budget to be reduced by \$250,000. Wes said that the value of the Police Department has been proven. He also emphasized that the taxpayers must be clear on what they will be losing if they vote for deep cuts.

Jamie Thompson said that the Budget Advisory Committee supports the Police Department. Cutting dispatch or reducing the Highway Department budget and putting paving on a Warrant Article are other possibilities. John Crisp stated that delaying paving would only increase the cost in the future and that more work might be necessary in order to prepare a road for paving. Wes does not agree with cutting dispatch.

Further discussion took place on the budget and John said that every department head came in with increases only on items that could not be reduced.

Wes asked to have a public hearing on December 16<sup>th</sup> so that the Selectmen could get a sense of what the people want. Rosanne, Michael, and the Budget Advisory Committee did not agree. Wes feels that it can't be business as usual as people in town are really hurting and there is a real financial crisis in the country right now.

The Budget Advisory Committee will get together their final recommendations and bullet points to the Selectmen for review.

The Committee was thanked by the Selectmen for their hard work on the 2009 budget.

The Selectmen will meet with Sue McKinnon to discuss the Inventory Forms.

Rosanne will contact Nathan Lunney at the SAU 16 office for financial and enrollment figures.

Fire Chief Buxton spoke with the State Fire Marshall about ColorAll. The Fire Marshall can shut them down and the Board decided to have him take care of it.

Wes met with Newmarket, Stratham, and Bestway representatives to discuss changing the recycling to single stream and extending the current contract. Another meeting will take place this week to discuss the concessions the towns are asking for.

Checks were signed.

The revised Primex Agreement was signed.

A thank you letter to the Parkers for organizing the Memorial Day Celebration for the past three years was signed.

Indemnity Insurance coverage was discussed and the town employees are covered if they are on town business.

Correspondence from Comcast was reviewed.

The Highway Block Grant Aid for 2009 was reviewed.

The Selectmen discussed trying to meet with the School Board Members. Michael will take on this responsibility.

The town parking lot and the trees that need to be cut were discussed.

Michael made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 25, 2008 meeting. Rosanne seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in session.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer  
Administrative Assistant